

House Bill 2233

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of House Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Veterans' Affairs and county veterans' service officers to provide aid and assistance to Korean Vietnam War veterans to obtain health care coverage and services and, upon determination that veteran is not eligible for health care coverage and services under federal and state laws, to implement program to provide such coverage and services.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Korean Vietnam War veterans; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Legislative Assembly finds that:**

5 (a) **Korean soldiers were sent to the Vietnam War to support American soldiers at the**
6 **request of the United States and served in Vietnam from 1964 until 1973;**

7 (b) **Many of these Korean Vietnam War veterans are now United States citizens and**
8 **residents of Oregon;**

9 (c) **Many of the Korean Vietnam War veterans suffered significant injuries and continue**
10 **to experience health conditions related to their service in the Vietnam War, including but**
11 **not limited to post-traumatic stress disorder, total disability and the effects of Agent Or-**
12 **ange; and**

13 (d) **Approximately 45 Korean Vietnam War veterans who are currently residents of**
14 **Oregon have been unjustly denied federal benefits, including health care coverage and ser-**
15 **vices, and are not receiving the health care coverage and services that are available to other**
16 **Vietnam War veterans under federal and state laws.**

17 (2) **For purposes of this section, "Korean Vietnam War veteran" means an individual**
18 **who:**

19 (a) **Was a Korean citizen who served in the Vietnam War at the request of the United**
20 **States;**

21 (b) **Is currently a United States citizen;**

22 (c) **Is currently a resident of Oregon;**

23 (d) **Can satisfactorily document the individual's service in the Vietnam War; and**

24 (e) **Has been denied entitlement to health care coverage and services under federal and**
25 **state laws.**

26 (3)(a) **The Department of Veterans' Affairs and county veterans' service officers ap-**
27 **pointed under ORS 408.410 shall give aid and assistance to a Korean Vietnam War veteran,**
28 **the spouse or dependents of the veteran or the survivors of the veteran in applying for all**
29 **benefits and aid related to health care coverage and services to which they are entitled by**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 federal and state laws, rules and regulations.

2 (b) If the department and county veterans' service officers determine that a Korean
3 Vietnam War veteran is not entitled to health care coverage and services that have been
4 appropriately applied for, the department and county veterans' service officers shall work,
5 in partnership with the Oregon Health Authority, to establish a program of health care
6 coverage and provision of health care services to the veteran.

7 (4) The responsibilities and duties of the department and county veterans' service officers
8 under subsection (3) of this section terminate upon a determination that the Korean Vietnam
9 War veteran has become eligible for and is receiving health care coverage and services under
10 other federal and state laws, rules and regulations.

11 **SECTION 2.** This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
12 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect
13 on its passage.

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